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**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**Inventor(s):** William B. Whitten II

**Docket No.:** 2000-0556

**Application No.:**

**Filing Date:**

**Examiner Name:**

**Group Art Unit:**

**Title:** Method Of Authorizing Receipt Of Instant Messages  
By A Recipient User



**THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

**SIR:**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, within three months of the U. S. filing date; or within three months of the date of the entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C. F. R. § 1.114, whichever occurs last. No certification or fee is required, 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months of the U.S. filing date, or more than three months after the date of the entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, whichever occurs first, 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1), or